

Message Text

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43

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

/025 W

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P 021253Z MAY 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 435

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0536

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY (ATHERTON)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL FINDLEY

REF: DAMASCUS 0523

1. DURING CALL AT THE PALACE LAST NIGHT (MAY 1) TO DISCUSS SEVERAL MATTERS PERTAINING TO SECRETARY'S TRIP, OFFICIALS THERE EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND PARTICULARLY HIS CALL ON PRESIDENT ASAD. THEY SIAD PRESIDENT WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO MEET THE CONGRESSMAN AND GENUINELY HOPS TO HAVE OCCASION IN FUTURE TO MEET MORE CONGRESSMEN AND SENTATORS. THE INTIMATED THAT DEPENDING UPON OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT DISENGAGEMENT TALKS, INVITATION WILL SOON BE GOING OUT TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE TO INVITE THEM TO DAMASCUS. THESE INVITATIONS WILL APPARENTLY BE SENT TO CONGRESSMEN WHO HAVE NOT BEEN NECESSARILY SYMATHETIC TO THE ARAB SIDE WITH SENATOR JACKSON'S NAME BEING CITED AS AN EXAMPLE.

2. CONGRESSMAN FINGLEY'S VISIT WAS GIVEN FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN THE TWO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WITH PICTURES APPEAR-
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ING IN BOTH JOURNALS WHICH SHOW HIM ENGAGING IN ANIMATED

COVERSATION WITH A SMILING PRESIDENT. THE STORIES
ACCOMPANYING THE PICTURES SIMPLY STATE THAT THE CONGRESS-
MAN HAD ARRIVED IN SYRIA ON A VISIT "TO INFORM HIMSELF
ABOUT THE SITUATION."

3. I WOULD LIKE ALSO TO ADD MY VIEW TO THE ABOVE THAT
THE CONGRESSMAN'S VISIT WAS HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY FOR
US HERE AT THE INTERSTS SECTION IN AS MUCH AS IT ENABLED
US TO MAKE SOME USEFUL CONTACTS WITH THE SYRIAN
PARLIAMENT. CONGRESSMAN FINGLEY GRACIOUSLY ALLOWED ME
TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON ALL HIS VISITS AND THIS, TOO, WAS HELPFUL
FROM POINT OF VIEW OF ENHANCING USINT'S PRESTIGE WITH
THE LOCAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC00536
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740105-0367
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740580/aaaacueb.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DAMASCUS 0523
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL FINDLEY
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, SY, (FINDLEY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005